

# The Baptist Record

Thursday, September 24, 1992

Published Since 1877

## Profanity on rise among children

By Kathy Palen

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP) — When one of Peggy George's kindergarten students lets loose with a four-letter word, George tries to explain calmly that such language is inappropriate at school. If her little chat fails to convince the child, George has that child call his or her father on the telephone and repeat the newly employed word.

"Usually that takes care of it," says George, a Southern Baptist who teaches at Nashville's Julia Green Elementary School.

George, who returned to teaching several years ago after an 18-year absence from the public school classroom, said she has seen a vast difference in the amount of profanity that children use.

"When I returned to teaching, I was at a school in a low-income area of Nashville, where the students often struggled just to survive," she said. "I was shocked by some of the language that was used by the students. But I was more shocked that the same language was being used by my students at Julia Green. I would estimate that two-thirds of my students are from homes in which both parents have a college education."

George cited several factors that may be contributing to the upswing in children's use of profanity. First, she said, as families face more and more pressures, parents' frustrations may come out in the use of certain language in front of their children. Children also may be hearing and learning inappropriate language from other children in such settings as day-care centers, she said.

"It also alarms me that American families are not spending enough time with their children," George added. "I think families from other countries often do better with the responsibility of par-

enting, including helping children to develop language and all kinds of behavior."

George is not alone in noticing an increase in the use of profanity among school children.

Profanity has become a way of communicating among students, said Lynn Yeager, an eighth-grade counselor at a middle school in Birmingham, Ala. Yeager said she has seen a definite increase in the use of profanity during her 15 years in public education.

The use of such language in schools disrupts the learning process, Yeager said. "Because the language is unacceptable to the teacher and to other students, the teacher can't let it go without correction," she explained. "That takes time away from instructional time. It also imposes embarrassment on the children."

Marvin Lane, a recently retired elementary school principal from Chattanooga, Tenn., agreed that parents can play an important role in reducing children's use of profanity.

Too often parents do not take the time to carry on conversations with their children, Lane said.

"Parents can be role models for their own children," said Lane, a member of First Church, Chattanooga. "They can speak pleasantly about the school, about the teachers and about the school administrators. They can take some time to be positive with their children about what they learn at school. They should take some time to talk with the child about what happened during the school day and to praise the child for accomplishment. And if there are problems, they should explain to the children that this is not the kind of behavior that is acceptable and support the teacher and the principal."

Palen writes for BJCPA.

## Profile of American children not good, according to Kids Count

By Lacy Thompson

(ABP) — Being a kid in America is tough and getting tougher.

That's the bottom line of a new study on the nation's children. According to the annual Kids Count Data Book, an analysis of trends affecting children "reveals a nation failing to keep pace with the needs of its youngest citizens."

"Families today have fewer resources to provide for their children, less time to devote to their nurturing, fewer informal supports and more anxiety about their children's future," Douglas Nelson notes in an introduction to the third annual study.

Nelson is executive director of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which sponsors the study along with the Center for the Study of Social Policy. The annual Kids Count Data Book seeks to profile the well-being of American children.

"Over the 1980s, we made no progress or slipped backwards in seven of nine measures of child well-being," Nelson wrote.

During the 1980s, the study notes: "Child poverty expanded. Births to unmarried teens climbed. More children are now living in families with only one parent. More babies are being born at risk because they are underweight. We made no progress in graduating young people from high school on time. The chances that a teenager, particularly an African-American teen, will die as a result of an acci-

dent, suicide, or murder rose. And, more young people are required by juvenile courts to spend formative years away from their families and communities because they are in trouble."

Only in two national categories of child welfare did the outlook improve. In all other instances, the trend was down. In all but one case, the national decline was by at least 10%. All in all, that offers bad news for families with children, the report says.

Factors profoundly affecting American families and their children include: major shifts in the U.S. economy, a growing mismatch between community institutions and child and family needs, and changes in the routines and realities of family life, the study noted. "Many American families are confronting greater stress than ever before."

On the average, families have less income and less time to spend on their children. During the 1980s, median income for families with children fell 5%.

Having a parent at home full time is becoming an exception rather than the norm it used to be, the study notes. While only 39% of American children had working mothers in 1970, that figure stood at 61% by 1990.

In addition, about 20% of American children live without benefit of health insurance.

The percentage of children in

single-parent homes has doubled in the last two decades. About 1 million children per year suffer through the divorce of their parents. More than 6 million children — 10% of the childhood population — live away from their parents, with relatives or other caretakers or in institutions. Kids Count compilers called that a "troubling symptom of family stress and crisis."

"Children are the poorest age group in America," the Kids Count book notes. While most of the children in poverty are white, the study noted, minority children face a greater chance of being poor. Most parents of poor children work and most of the children live in suburbs or rural areas.

"For most of these poor families, it is difficult to secure the basic goods and services essential for raising a child, such as adequate food and clothing, child care, health care, good schools and safe housing," the Kids Count book says.

Poverty also deprives children of opportunities such as quality child care, the chance to learn music or participate in sports, the opportunity to go to camp or college, the study noted.

"Going without these basics and opportunities can rob children of their childhood," the researchers said.

Thompson is associate editor, Louisiana BAPTIST MESSAGE.



## "The Four Grandmas"

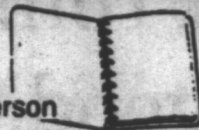
These four grandmothers in China have found a rewarding way to spend retirement: fluttering over orphaned babies at Nanjing Children's Welfare Center. The center is home to 300 orphans — newborns to age 14. Many were abandoned because of birth defects or their female gender. The four women, who all have their own grandchildren, concentrate on loving the orphans. But they also

give expert medical attention; two are doctors and two are registered nurses. The Amity Foundation, a Chinese organization begun by Christians and others, sponsors the "grandmothers project." Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization, has provided resources and funds for a number of Amity projects. (BP photo by Lounette Templeton)



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



# The 21st century — what will the church be like?

A pilot must file a flight plan and do a careful ground check before taking off. Our churches would do well to consider plans for the coming century and the kind of church we leave for our grandchildren. Some 77 million baby boomers have moved into adult boomers and are influencing the structures of our society by sheer number and a persistent cry for change. Perhaps in 1890 a group of church leaders met and discussed the same issues.

As expected, this has been a century of turmoil and growth. The church seems to grow at times in spite of all that man can do. Growth has been phenomenal. We have gone from a small provincial group to a major denomination in 50 states and over 120 countries. We have fought battles with modernism, Landmarkism, J. Frank Norris' fundamentalism, and with what has been called "successism."

Findlay B. Edge in *The Greening of the Church* quotes Stephen C. Rose, who wrote *Who's Killing the Church?* First, says Rose, there is the possibility that the forces of a secular world are killing the church. Humanism, materialism, and evil forces are overwhelming the church.

Some say the forces of evil could never be that powerful. They say the church is dying from within because of apathy, neglect, and indifference. The church is committing suicide. The church is so worldly and the world is so churchy that you cannot tell the difference.

The third answer is that a new wine is being fermented. Old forms and scaffolds are being broken. The old is dying to give life to a new one. God is killing the church; it is necessary for the old to give way to the new. Rose makes a final blast: "The idea of giving up on the institutional church is most tempting to me... but... we owe the church the obligation of trying to develop institutional relevance before summarily jettisoning the institution." Edge rejected this by saying the church can be renewed.

Some churchmen are working overtime to convince us that the early years of the next century will be for the superchurch, the mega-plex with a spiritual bent. Present day examples are Willow Creek and Bill Hybel near Chicago,

go, Rick Warren's Saddleback Community Church in California, and dozens of other churches with thousands coming on Sunday. These churches are good at people-pleasing; blending entertainment and worship in a fast-paced, feel-good, religion that people love. Doran McCarthy in *Leading the Small Church* maintains the small church has earned its place under the sun and will survive. In the SBC we have 24,000 churches with 225 members or less and W. Curry Mavis says that one half of the 273,000 Protestant churches in America will have less than 150 in worship.

The day of strong denominational loyalty is said to be no more. The baby boomers tend not to be joiners but approach life as consumers. Their loyalty is to brand products; organizational and denominational loyalty are not reflected as a strong factor. They seek a genuine meeting with God in worship, not a denominational program. Tradition, like the proverbial onion, must be peeled off to get to the truth. Others see tradition as the one hitching post that will ever be near the truth.

The era of diversity is upon us. Choices we must have. Churches are requested to provide a worship experience for senior adults, yuppies and guppies, DINKS (dual income, no kids) and SIT-COMS (single income, two children, outrageous mortgage), youths, and children. An assembly line of services at 8, 9, 10, and 11 will be in vogue. Bring in music to satisfy the worship group: traditional hymns, contemporary music, rock, country, or the blues. Have Sunday School in the jails, alleys, backyards, recreational areas, as well as in the buildings.

Provide something for every age, taste, ethnic group, or spiritual background. Learn to walk in new sandals and drink from new wineskins. This would be in step with today's generation but still leaves a few red flags flying. The church will ever have a difficult time competing with the world. They can still outdraw us if music appeal, entertainment, and showmanship is all we have to offer.

Mix our mobility and the race for the sun, sea, and the good life with all this and you've got trouble

in River City. Russell Chandler, author of *Racing Toward 2001*, says we can also expect the continued decline of our cities as suburbanites become disenchanted with their environment.

The gap is reportedly widening between clergy and laity. Baptists, for 500 years, have sought to close the gap. Are we disclaiming the priesthood of the believer, seeking now to have the holy priesthood only? Supposedly clergy have long been vested with authority to run the church. Suddenly the laity discover grave reservation about the way the clergy has handled this authority and evidences of a power struggle are apparent.

This is only a portion of the 21st century pie. Books are spewing forth on ecology and the good earth, sexual orientation, euthanasia, genetic engineering, and others to provide a cloudy day for the church in the early part of the next century.

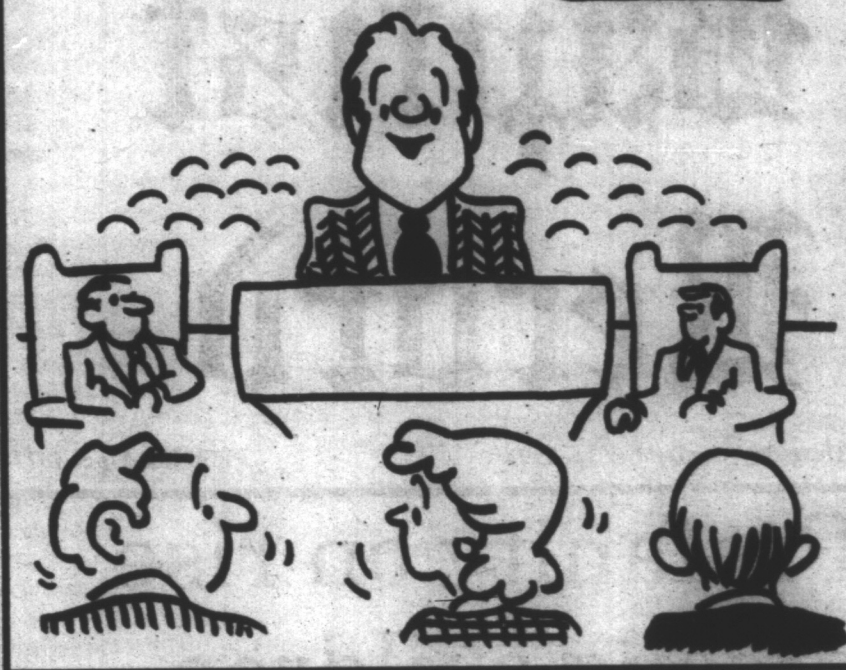
The war will wage on. No change and we perish; too much change and we become like something other than the church. Some changes will have predictable results. The electronic ministry will wax and wane; the authoritarian church is apt to become abusive and darken its ministry. A one-man church eventually has a potential of crowding God out. The superchurch has super potential but the temptations will be heavy. They will grow but the need of the small church will ever be with us.

The problem of leisure time will hound us deep into the 21st century. Longer weekends will take many away from the church. An alternative will be needed. Will we have churches ministering to homosexuals only, or to AIDS groups only? Will there be the "pro-choice" church, or the church with "fellowship" only — no sermons nor teaching, perhaps just the Praise-Only church. Try the holistic church majoring on psychiatry — and on and on the list could go. Whatever crops up in society, the church will mirror it or try to defeat it.

There is yet a more sure word about the church. "Upon this rock, I will build my church." It is a spiritual body, divinely appointed, made up of born-again believers and it will last. Listen to what the Spirit says to the churches.

"WHY DID I JOIN THIS CHURCH?  
I WAS IMPRESSED BY ITS  
MARKET-RESEARCH, CUSTOMER  
SATISFACTION, AND ASSET  
MANAGEMENT!"

JOE  
MYKIELTZ



Guest opinion...

## Strange definitions, new bureaucracy make a lottery

By Paul G. Jones II

Second in a two-part series.

The act [that allowed dockside gambling in Mississippi] also redefined "navigable waters." Usually, water is navigable if a vessel can move freely upon it. The new definition redefined navigable waters to mean any rivers, creeks, bayous, or other bodies of water (swamps, bogs, ponds, puddles?) which in their present or future improved condition can be used for commerce or is used for docking or mooring a vessel regardless of whether the "navigable" water contains "interruptions" such as "falls, shallows or rapids compelling land carriage."

Likewise, audits of gambling operations shall be required only if the operation has more than \$3 million in annual gross revenue. The Gaming Commission is not required to seek audits for operations with less gross revenue. Generally, the state demands audits of all people that it licenses, but the act redefined those gamblers who must be audited.

Moreover, if the executive director of the Gaming Commission allows, a person who has been issued a gaming license may establish a "sports pool" or "race book" on the premises of the gambling operation. Betting on sports activities has the potential of destroying legitimate amateur and profession-

al sports programs. Are our state universities ready to deal with players and fans who bet on their games? What kind of NCAA sanctions has the legislature invited?

On Nov. 3, 1992 the voters will go the polls to decide if lottery will continue to be prohibited in the state. Regardless of what they are told, voters will not get to vote to establish a lottery nor to designate where the money would be spent. The only thing the voters will do is to vote on whether to keep or remove the present constitutional prohibition against a lottery. Only the legislature can create a lottery and only the legislature can determine where the money will be directed.

The question must be raised: can we really believe that the legislature is capable of writing a law creating a lottery that is any better than the Gaming Control Act of 1990? Are we really willing to bet the future of our state on the hoped-for good work of those who already have created such a legal morass? How did your legislators vote on HB 2 in the special session of 1990? Can you really expect them to do any better with the lottery? When it comes to gambling, trusting many in the legislature appears to be a bad bet.

Jones is executive director, Christian Action Commission, Mississippi Baptist Convention.

## The Baptist Record

VOLUME 116

(ISSN-0005-5778)

NUMBER 32

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

Editor ..... Guy Henderson  
Associate Editor ..... William H. Perkins Jr.  
Advertising/News writer ..... Teresa Dickens  
Editorial Associate ..... Florence Larrimore  
Circulation Manager ..... Renee Walley  
Bookkeeper ..... Betty Anne Bailey  
Proofreader/Secretary ..... Shannon Simpson  
Editor Emeritus ..... Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Deborah Brunt, Corinith; Susan Kinton, Walnut Grove; Randy Turner, Laurel, vice-chairman; Tommy Tutor, Clarksdale, chairman; ex-officio, Teresa Dickens, secretary, Jackson.  
Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.  
Send news, communications, and address changes to  
The Editor, Baptist Record  
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205  
(601) 968-3800



# Zimbabwe partnership project yields Mississippi church

By Bill Hardy

The Gurube Mississippi Baptist Church was born in Zimbabwe on Sept. 13, 1992, when the fledgling congregation organized into a church.

In June, three Mississippians — Leon Emery of Jackson, Ingram Foster of Prentiss, and Hiram Powell, the partnership project field coordinator who lives in Harare, Zimbabwe — joined with Rev. Isaac Chigede and a Zimbabwe home missionary to give testimony and conduct revival services.

The first response to the gospel was Dobigwar Rewards, who was the beginning of what was to become a vibrant congregation. On the Sunday that the church

was organized, 31 adults were baptized into the fellowship.

Out of gratitude for the ministry of the Mississippians, the congregation voted to include Mississippi in the name of the church.

Returning groups continue to recount the warm-hearted response to the gospel. The final group of 1992 will depart for Zimbabwe on Oct. 12, but groups of ten are already forming for church planting and revivals in Zimbabwe in 1993.

Interested parties should contact the partnership office in the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. The telephone

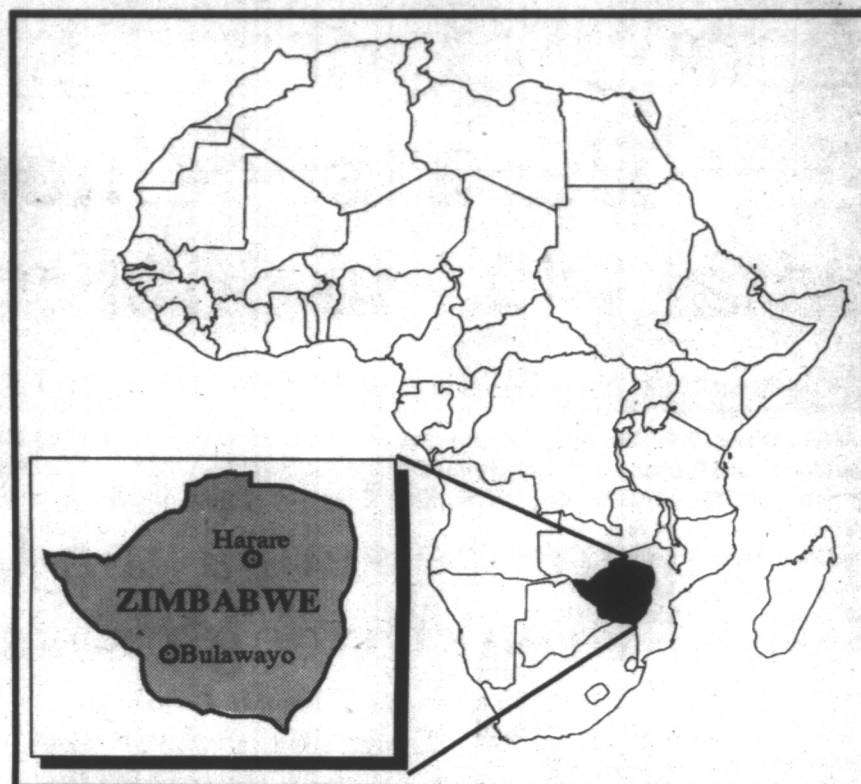
number is (601) 968-3800.

Prayers were requested for an important meeting held on Sept. 12 in Zimbabwe between the Mission Support Council and the Executive Committee of the National Convention.

God heard the prayers; the meeting was open and conciliatory, with avenues of communication opened and renewed.

Please continue to pray for openness and understanding between the groups. God is doing great things among the people, and the leadership desires to be unified.

Hardy is coordinator of the Zimbabwe partnership project, MBCB.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

## The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, September 24, 1992

Published Since 1877

### RTVC trustees affirm VISN-ACTS agreement

FORT WORTH, TEXAS (BP) — Radio and Television Commission trustees expressed concerns about budgets and burgeoning opportunities but spent little time fretting about complaints regarding the shared-channel agreement between ACTS (the American Christian Television System) and VGI (Vision Group, Inc.) during their meeting Sept. 14-15 in Fort Worth, Texas.

In specific actions, the trustees: — adopted a \$9.2 million spending goal, \$700,000 under their current budget and far below the amount needed to meet exploding opportunities shared by RTVC President Jack Johnson.

— affirmed a services agreement approved earlier by the commission's executive committee by which ACTS is scheduled Oct. 1

to begin sharing a satellite transponder with VISN, an ecumenical network composed of 54 faith groups.

— heard plans for the formation of radio program fan clubs to promote 1994's "benchmark" anniversaries of three programs: "Country Crossroads" and "Powerline," which will be 25 years old, and "MasterControl," which will be 35.

— welcomed eight new trustees in day-long orientation sessions which featured former RTVC trustee, Fred Roach.

— resolved to discontinue ACTS "satellite fees" after Dec. 31, urging affiliates to apply those funds to local ACTS boards.

— voted to spend up to \$500,000 for replacement equipment required to meet new pro-

gramming needs.

— received reports that the commission has operated within its budget, paid all its bills, increased its reserves and is running ahead of schedule in reducing its debt.

Johnson's challenge to trustees Sept. 14 cited a survey by a St. Petersburg, Russia, television station which has broadcast commission programs to 110 million Russians since July. The survey showed 8.3% of the viewers in St. Petersburg watched "The Word of Life" — the Russian version of "The Baptist Hour"; 70% of those who watched RTVC programs expressed a desire to watch them again; and 36% acknowledged that the programs "influenced their attitude about religion."

Johnson gratefully acknowledged (See RTVC on page 8).

### CBF council endorses job offer to Parks

ATLANTA (ABP) — The leadership of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship "wholeheartedly" endorsed the effort to hire retiring Southern Baptist missions executive Keith Parks to lead the Fellowship's own missions program.

The Fellowship's Coordinating Council, meeting Sept. 10-12 in Atlanta, also approved two new staff positions, heard that an interim missions coordinator had been hired, and heard of plans to place a mission worker in Miami to aid in hurricane relief.

The 84-member council also voted to change the site of the Fellowship's general assembly May 13-15, 1993, from Atlanta to Birmingham, Ala., and was told no merger is

planned for now between the Fellowship and the Alliance of Baptists.

Parks, who will retire as president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Oct. 31, has not responded to the Fellowship's job offer. The council's endorsement of that offer followed a lengthy debate about the manner in which the invitation was extended to Parks, who announced in February he will take early retirement because of "philosophical differences" with FMB trustees.

Several council members expressed displeasure that Parks was offered a job by the council's global missions ministry group in February without the approval of the full council.

In response, Charles Wade of

Arlington, Texas, said he assumed it was so "patently obvious" that Parks is the person for the job that approval by the council wasn't needed. "But it's obvious not everyone feels that way."

Jean Bond, co-chairperson of the global missions ministry group, conceded: "This is one area where we realize we did not follow what you would have had us do.... I assure you if Keith Parks declines our invitation, we will certainly come to you in the proper way."

Bond, from Starkville, noted Parks won't respond until after he completes his work at the FMB Oct. 31.

When Parks was offered the job (See PARKS on page 9)

### HMB assigns Mississippi natives to US-2 service

ATLANTA — Mississippians Lesley Vance and Patty Wilder were appointed as US-2 missionaries by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in August.

A US-2 missionary is a college graduate who works in home missions for two years.

Vance is a native of Jackson, and a graduate of Mississippi State University in Starkville. She plans to attend graduate school or seminary after US-2 service.

A former news writer and editor for the Mississippi State Reflector, Vance served as a summer missionary in California in 1990.

She will serve in Livingston, Tenn., as a church planter strategist.

Wilder is a native of Jackson, and a graduate of Mississippi State University.

A former student research assistant, Wilder will serve as an evangelism missionary in Phoenix, Ariz.

### Richard Jackson to retire from North Phoenix pulpit

PHOENIX, Ariz. (ABP) — Richard Jackson, 54, pastor of North Phoenix Church in Phoenix, Ariz., for the past 25 years, announced his retirement from the pastorate Sept. 13. Jackson, one of Southern Baptists' most popular pulpites, said he will continue his preaching ministry but will not accept another pastorate.

Since Jackson became pastor in 1967, the church has grown from about 200 members to 23,000, making it the largest Southern Baptist church in the West. In that time the congregation has baptized 20,000 people and has often led the Southern Baptist Convention in annual baptisms.

While his Sunday morning announcement came as a surprise to his congregation, Jackson said it was no sudden decision. He said he decided 30 years ago that he did not want to outlive his usefulness in the pastorate.

Although the church has felt

the impact of hard economic times, rumors of financial problems are "absolutely false," Jackson said. "The church has never been in financial trouble.... The church is in the best position it's ever been in. In fact we've reduced indebtedness by \$15 million to about \$10 million."

He said he and his wife, Wanda, would like to continue to be a part of North Phoenix Church, and he has offered to serve as pastor emeritus. "We pledge to stay close enough to help and far enough away to not hurt," he said in his letter to church members, printed in the congregation's newsletter.

Once relieved of his pastoral duties, Jackson said he will focus on other avenues of ministry, including crusades, revivals, and writing. He is president of the Richard Jackson Center for Preaching and Evangelism, a private, non-profit organization located on the campus of Grand Canyon College in Phoenix.



Wilder



Vance





Overflow crowd attending the Sunday School Leadership Conference and Great Commission Breakthrough training program Sept. 11-12 at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly listen as Sean Keith of the Sunday School Department, MBCB, sings a solo on the first night of the conference. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## SS conference sets attendance record; second Breakthrough session slated

By William H. Perkins Jr.

A new attendance record was set at the combined Sunday School Leadership Conference/Great Commission Breakthrough sessions held Sept. 11-12 at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly on the Mississippi gulf coast, according to organizers at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

"There were a total of 425 people present, with 315 in the Sunday School Leadership Conference and 110 in the Great Commission Breakthrough consultant training. The previous record attendance at an annual Sunday School Leadership Conference was 300," said Randy Tompkins, consultant in the Sunday School Department of MBCB and one of the planners for the event. This is the first year for Great Commission Breakthrough training, he added.

The Sunday School Leadership Conference sessions covered age groups from preschool

through adult, as well as a session for general church officers, pastors and staff. Instructors included Bob Mathis, a professor at New Orleans Seminary; Wayne Edwards, minister of education at First Church, Clinton; Rhett Whitley and Carole Green, consultants with the Louisiana Baptist Convention in Alexandria; Ronnie Falvey, minister of education at First Church, Canton; Mark Lott, minister of education and youth at Immanuel Church in Pace, Fla.; and Tom McMinn, manager of children's programs at the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) in Nashville.

In the Great Commission Breakthrough session, the instructors were Art Burcham, manager of the general officer's program section at BSSB; and Wayne Poling, growth consultant at BSSB. A second training session for volunteers is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept.

29, at the Baptist Building in Jackson.

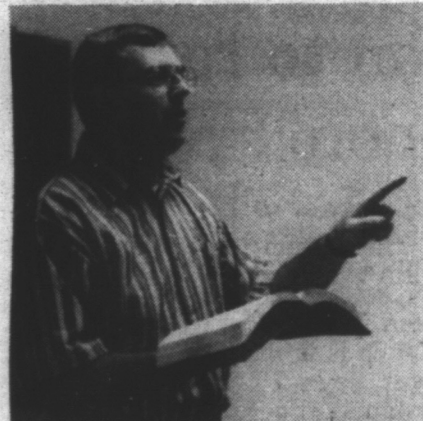
Great Commission Breakthrough was created by BSSB to introduce new outreach and growth ideas to individual churches. Under the program, volunteers from across Mississippi will attend training sessions and then be assigned to churches that have enlisted in the program. The volunteers will consult with the churches, utilizing the ideas learned in the training sessions.

Tompkins said 138 churches are now enlisted in the program and 150 trained volunteers will soon be ready, but he pointed out that those numbers are not as balanced as they appear.

"The locations of the volunteers are not geographically balanced with the locations of participating churches. There are more volunteers in the northern half of the state than there are enlisted churches, so there is a great need for churches from the northern half of the state to enlist in Great Commission Breakthrough," he said.

Churches and volunteers who want more information on the Great Commission Breakthrough program can contact the MBCB Sunday School Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. The telephone number is (601) 968-3800.

Wayne Edwards (left) drives home a point while instructing adult workers at the annual Sunday School Leadership Conference. Edwards is Minister of Education at First Church, Clinton. Carole Green (below), preschool/children consultant for the Louisiana Baptist Convention in Alexandria, offers ideas to Mississippians who will be teaching preschool Sunday School classes across the state in the coming church year. (Photos by William H. Perkins Jr.)



NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission trustees gave the green light to the CLC's new video on sanctity of human life issues, elected new trustee officers and approved a record budget of \$1,584,131 for the 1992-93 fiscal year.

The new 18-minute video is entitled "The Sanctity of Human Life." It explores the attitudes and actions that have led the Southern Baptist Convention from the outskirts of the abortion debate two decades ago to the central role it now plays in Sanctity of Human Life issues nation-

## Orchids to Good Samaritans

"All residents are urged to evacuate," was heard in many villages in south Louisiana. With grim faces and visions of Miami they loaded what they could, turned their backs on the homes they loved, and headed out of the path of the coming hurricane. The people in Mississippi, no strangers to hurricanes themselves, received many of them. Returning home, many took time to write.

I'm sure there must have been some unpleasant experiences but they were certainly overshadowed by words of gratitude. The Jackson Clarion-Ledger has received letters from thankful families creating a warm, fuzzy feeling from Forest to Ft. Adams. A Jefferson Parish family wrote, "It came as no surprise for me to learn that the officials and the people of Mississippi opened shelters in government buildings, and in numerous churches... providing the roof, the food, and the neighborly warmth for which Mississippi is known." Way to go, Terry; a New Iberia victim wrote, "they prepared all kinds of food, gave us pads to sleep on, and offered us the use of their homes for telephone, TV viewing etc... Mississippi should be proud to have such kind and caring people."

"Nothing brings people together like tragedy," wrote a Lafayette citizen, as he expressed appreciation to McCarty-Holman for furnishing the truck and the driver to deliver food. "God bless them all," he said. Harvey, Louisiana said it well, "...Impressed by the radio stations passing on so much information, a veterinarian who offered free boarding services for family pets, hotel and motels that never raised prices, public shelters of churches and schools, business establishments that offered discounts to storm victims, and for many people who turned strangers into friends."

From Golden Meadow, La., no available motel rooms but "we did find true neighbors and friends.... private citizens, law enforcement personnel, motel managers, and public officials... state police and sheriff's deputies, not harassing evacuees... but there to direct and aid.... Motel managers who stood outside to offer apology or assistance.... Radio disc jockeys requesting and passing on information on rooms. One Natchez lady who boarded and fed a family of four and then refused to accept payment stands as a benchmark of concern and hospitality. Wow, I didn't know we were so compassionate. Its enough to make your eyeballs sweat.

Like the South Carolina man said to Florida, "You helped us a couple years ago, and we are just repaying the hospitality." And when Mississippi's time comes, we will find the same hospitality in Louisiana. — GH

## January Bible Study preview clinics scheduled at colleges

A series of clinics to preview the January Bible Study will take place at the Mississippi Baptist colleges. Topic of the study will be Matthew 5-7, the Sermon on the Mount.

Dates of the clinics are Sept. 30 at Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain; Oct. 1 at Mississippi College, Clinton; and Oct. 2 at William Carey College, Hattiesburg. Each clinic will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 that afternoon.

Each host college will provide a complimentary lunch to participants.

The study was written by former Mississippian Don Stewart, direc-

tor of the doctor of ministries an extension center graduate programs for New Orleans Seminary.

Leader of the preview clinics for adults will be James E. Harvey of the Sunday School Board who works exclusively with January Bible Studies. The youth leader will be Judy Wooldridge, a youth worker leader also with the Sunday School Board.

Study course credit will be given to those who attend the entire program, according to Larry Salter, consultant in the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which sponsors these meetings. For details, contact Salter at 968-3800.

## CLC trustees see new life sanctity video

wide.

In their Sept. 14-16 semi-annual meeting, the trustees elected James W. Richards, pastor of Southminster Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, La., new board chairman. He replaces Harry A. "Hal" Lane, pastor of West Side Baptist Church in Greenwood, S.C., who has been board chairman for the past year.

Other officers include Nancy Schaefer of Atlanta, vice chairman; and A. Lee McGehee from Ocala, Fla., recording secretary.

The 1992-93 budget anticipates a decline of \$5,000 in

Cooperative Program receipts but an increase of \$15,000 in sales of CLC literature and an increase of nearly \$1,000 in designated gifts to the agency.

In other action, trustees:

— voted unanimously to present the CLC's annual Distinguished Service Award to James T. Draper, Jr., president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, for his record of leadership in the convention, particularly his strong stand against abortion.

— approved a 4% raise for the CLC's executive director and an average of 2.5% raise for all other employees.





Martha Franks, one of the best-known missionaries in Southern Baptist life, died Sept. 14 at age 91. Her missionary career spanned a tumultuous 40 years in China and Taiwan. She endured famine, riots, civil war, evacuations, and internment by the Japanese in north China. But she also witnessed one of the great religious awakenings of modern times — the Shantung Revival. Then she spent a quarter-century "retirement" that was just as active, if not risky. Known for her vitality, wit, and sharp dress, she was in demand as a mission speaker for decades — especially for young people. Her later life's dream — of starting a retirement and prayer center in her hometown of Laurens, S.C., — became the Martha Franks Baptist Retirement Center, now a multimillion-dollar facility. (BP 1982 file photo)

## CARE Regional Rallies

Citizens Advocating Responsible Economics (CARE) will conduct regional rallies for the purposes of organizing local opposition to the statewide lottery vote on Nov. 3, and educating people to the negative economic and moral impact of the lottery on our state.

Please find the meeting closest to you from the list below and invite as many people as possible to attend. One vote does make a difference; the lottery can be defeated with your help.

Brookhaven  
7 p.m.  
Tuesday, October 6  
Holiday Inn  
1012 Brookway

Columbus  
7 p.m.  
Thursday, October 15  
Holiday Inn  
506 Highway 45 North

Greenwood  
7 p.m.  
Tuesday, September 29  
Ramada Inn  
900 West Park

Gulfport  
7 p.m.  
Thursday, October 8  
Holiday Inn Airport  
9415 Highway 49 North

Jackson  
7 p.m.  
Thursday, October 22  
Holiday Inn North  
5075 I-55 North

Meridian  
7 p.m.  
Tuesday, October 13  
Holiday Inn South  
Highway 45 South

Southaven  
7 p.m.  
Thursday, October 1  
Calvary Baptist Church  
5145 Highway 51 North (Horn Lake)

Tupelo  
7 p.m.  
Monday, October 5  
Lee County Public Library  
219 North Madison

Sponsored by: Citizens Advocating Responsible Economics, 625 North State Street, Jackson, MS (601) 355-1888

# Missionary Franks dies at 91; remembered as "feisty"

LAURENS, S.C. (BP) — Martha Franks, one of the best-known missionaries in Southern Baptist life, died Sept. 14 of heart and kidney failure after several years of declining health. She was 91.

"Miss Martha's" missionary career spanned a tumultuous 40 years in China and Taiwan. She endured famine, riots, civil war, evacuations, and internment by the Japanese in north China. But she also witnessed one of the great religious awakenings of modern times — the Shantung Revival — as Christianity took root in the region.

Franks then spent a quarter-century "retirement" that was just as

active, if not as risky. Known for her vitality, wit, and sharp dress, she was in demand as a missions speaker for decades — especially for young people.

She told a reporter she had worn out 11 Volkswagens driving to speaking engagements — and that was 10 years ago. Over the years she also drove vehicles ranging from a Model T to a motor scooter.

Her later life's dream — of starting a retirement and prayer center with fellow missionary retiree Olive Lawton in their hometown of Laurens, S.C. — became the Martha Franks Baptist Retirement Center, now a multi-million-dollar facility.

Franks summed up her life in a

1981 article called "Looking Back."

"I suppose looking back as a retired (retarded, a little boy said!) missionary, my greatest gratitude for the 40 years in China was that I was there. I saw and felt and experienced the great spiritual awakening that came to north China.... The day I left (for China), I wept volumes of tears. I honestly thought I was doing God and the Chinese a great favor. Now I know that what he did for me was millions more than I ever did for him."

Franks is survived by two nieces. Funeral services were scheduled Sept. 16 at First Baptist Church in Laurens.

## Pike Association disaster relief trailer assists in La. clean-up

By Ben R. Stewart

The clean up and recovery unit of Pike County Association was activated after Hurricane Andrew struck southeastern Louisiana. Response was made by a team comprised of Floyd Johnston, West McComb Church; Tommy Roberts, Bogue Chitto Church; Larry Wigginton, East McComb Church; and myself.

We arrived in Morgan City, La., where Bob Burton, pastor, had a list of people needing assistance with downed trees. Bob worked with us while we were in the Morgan City area; his knowledge of the area made our work progress more rapidly.

Thanks to the Coca Cola Bottling Company and the Dixie Springs Water System, we were able to have cold drinking water the entire time.

The Pike County disaster team ate lunch with the Arkansas Baptist feeding unit each day. Names of people needing assistance were turned in to the Arkansas feeding unit who gave the list to us at noon.

The progress of cutting fallen trees, taking trees blown over homes and remaining debris to the street side, was started on Saturday. The unit put in five or six hours of work Sunday morning. The team members went to church services at Immanuel Church before proceeding with about seven more hours of work.

On Sunday, three members of a film crew from the Home Mission Board filmed the services at Immanuel Church and made several shots of the Pike disaster trailer.

That afternoon, while clearing a tree from a woman's house, we noticed that she was trying to help move limbs to the street, favoring her left arm. We learned she had recently had a mastectomy. We urged her to let us do the work while she prayed for us. We invited her to start going to church on Sundays.

The next day, after cleaning a tree off a house, the team cut five trees on church property and cut up fallen trees on property used by the church and church school as a

playground.

We then proceeded to Patterson, where we removed two trees from the pastor's roof. The rest of the afternoon was spent removing a pecan tree from the home of a blind woman in Morgan City.

The Morgan City area seemed to have plenty of food, but is urgently in need of volunteers with chain saws to help cut trees so people can get back into their homes. They seemed to be in good spirits even though they had lost all the food in their freezers, and most had roof and house damage. They said they were thankful there was not more damage, and that lives had been spared.

Bob Burton, his wife Lillie, their daughter and son, made the team feel at home while there. They opened their home to us for dinner two nights (even without electricity) and breakfast on the morning we left.

Stewart, director, Pike Association disaster relief ministry, is a member of First Church, Magnolia.

## Funds approved for Hawaii relief

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission took the first step Sept. 14 toward disaster relief involvement in Hawaii with the approval of funds for a mobile kitchen to serve victims of Hurricane Iniki.

Meanwhile, the Brotherhood Commission's Memphis staff continued to evaluate additional needs in the stricken area.

The "garden island" of Kauai took the brunt of Iniki's 130 mph winds when it came ashore Sept. 11. The intensity of the winds and the extent of damage are reported to be comparable to Hurricane Andrew, which hit Florida and

Louisiana three weeks ago.

The Hawaii Baptist Convention reported damage to three churches on Kauai but there were no deaths or injuries among church members.

At the Lihue Baptist Church, where Rick Watkins is pastor, the preschool building was destroyed. Large holes were opened in the roof of the sanctuary while the parsonage roof had minor damage.

The parsonage at Elele Baptist Mission was flattened and portion of the church roof was destroyed. Pastor Mel Campos lost virtually all his household goods.

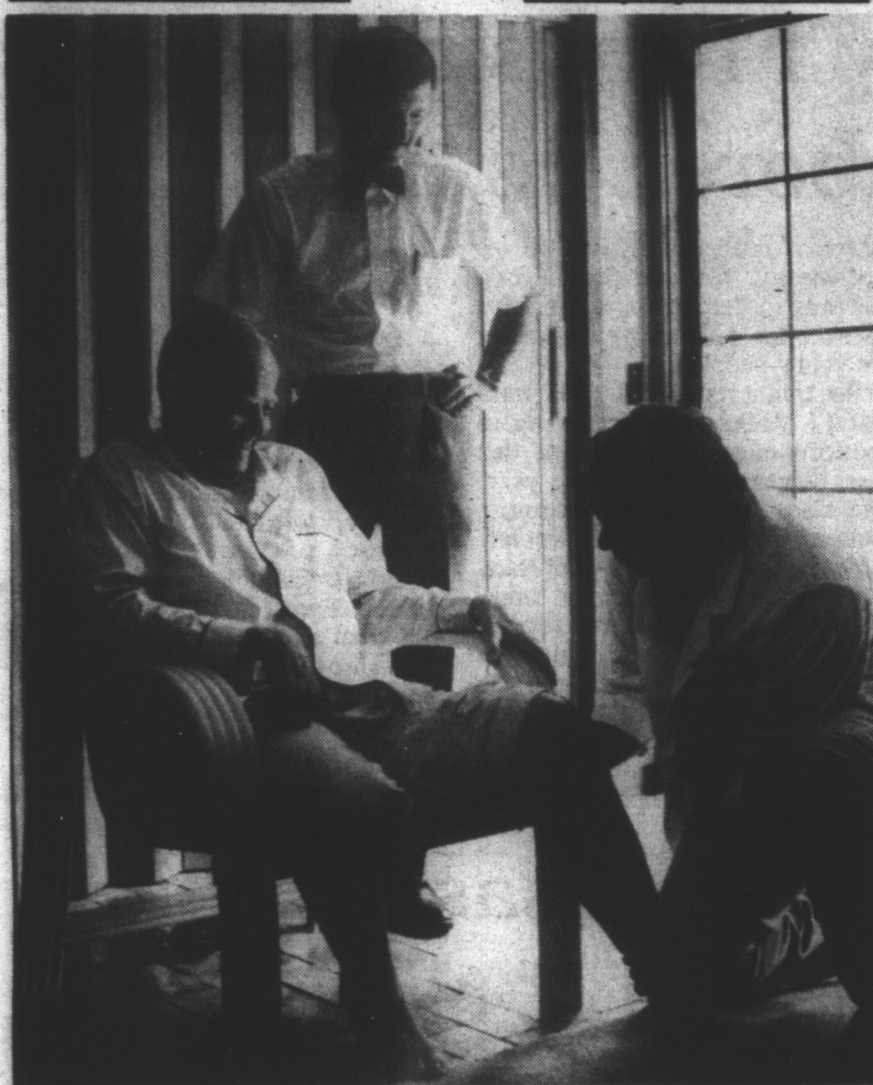
The roof of Waimea Baptist Church, pastored by James Mer-

ritt, was partially blown off. The parsonage garage collapsed and smashed the church van and the pastor's automobile.

"Hawaii Baptists are responding with food and volunteers," said O.W. Eford, executive director-treasurer of the Hawaii Baptist Convention in an initial report of Iniki's onslaught.

Donations may be sent to the Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104, and should be designated for disaster relief. Contributions may also be sent to the Hawaii Baptist Convention, 2042 Vancouver Dr., Honolulu, HI 96822 and marked "Kauai Relief."





Physical therapy was a daily part of the recovery process for missionary Ben Tomlison (seated) following his recent knee replacement. Surgeon John McGraw (standing) and therapist Joey Cooley (kneeling) were among the Laurel physicians who volunteered their services to help nurture the missionary back to health.

## Big Level, Wiggins, begins missions in own back yard

By Charlie Rempel

The people at Big Level Church, Wiggins, have put into practice the belief that missions must start where you live. In addition to feeding carnival workers at the county fair and starting a weekly English literacy class for workers from Mexico, this small rural church conducted a local lake ministry this summer.

A group of 12 youths and five adult sponsors and cooks moved into two cabins at Flint Creek Water Park. They had four family night programs consisting of puppet shows, skits, and music. The response was phenomenal, with

attendance of up to 150 campers. Sunday morning worship was held with 100 in attendance.

Authorities at Flint Creek Reservoir welcomed this group with open arms. "Why hasn't anyone done this before?" and, "Will you be back again next year?" were some of the questions being asked. Mississippi has many beautiful lakes, rivers, and miles of seashore that are dotted with campgrounds full of people from all over America.

Truly, missions begins where you are.

Rempel is pastor, Big Level Church.



Young members of Big Level Church, Wiggins, display some home-made puppets used in puppet shows at Flint Creek Water Park.

# Missionary Ben Tomlison finds relief, care in Laurel

By Teresa Dickens

Ben Tomlison has finally gotten relief. But he never dreamed he would find it in Laurel, Miss.

Tomlison and his wife Bettie — from Georgia and Texas, respectively — have served Southern Baptist as missionaries to Taiwan for 27 years. They and their five children, who are now grown, have lived in several locations in the East Asia country and worked in a variety of roles. The couple now lives in Chungli on the campus of Chun Yuan Christian University and works as church planters and church "encouragers."

Throughout his life, Tomlison has enjoyed playing basketball. Even as a missionary, he has played and coached basketball as a hobby.

Eleven years ago that hobby resulted in an injury to his left knee. Although doctors never really pinpointed exactly what happened, problems with the knee have never gone away. To complicate matters, degenerative arthritis set up in the knee. Together, the pain and swelling became so severe last year that Tomlison on occasion would have to sit to give reports and addresses.

"I have been half a missionary this past year," Tomlison said.

Five years ago, doctors told the missionary that he needed to have a complete knee replacement. At the time, Tomlison thought he could "tough it out," but the intense pain during the past year changed his mind.

Knowing that he was nearing fur-

lough, Tomlison contacted Van Williams, medical director with the Foreign Mission Board, about having the surgery while in the States. In turn, Williams contacted Laurel bone specialist John McGraw, who serves the FMB as its orthopedic surgical consultant.

Upon reviewing Tomlison's case, McGraw, a member of First Church, Laurel, confirmed a knee replacement was necessary and offered to do the surgery free of charge to the FMB. He also wrote Tomlison, issuing the same offer and extending an invitation to the missionary couple to stay with him and his family while he recuperated. Tomlison accepted.

The Tomlisons arrived in Laurel Aug. 19 and the surgery was performed two days later. After a week's hospital stay, they moved to McGraw's home, where they stayed until Sept. 14. The couple returned to Dallas, Texas, where they are furloughing.

"The surgery literally gave me new life," Tomlison told the Baptist Record in late August. "I am looking forward to resuming a normal schedule when I return to Taiwan. I would not have been able to do that if I had not had the surgery."

But the surgery is only a part of the Tomlison's experience in Laurel. "The sweet fellowship is the most important," Tomlison commented. "The care and warmth of the McGraws, their friends and church family, the other doctors

and hospital staff, have made my wife and me feel like we are home."

Along with McGraw's services, other medical professionals also donated their time to Tomlison's case. Among them were physicians Thomas Blake, Jack Evans, and John Hassell, all members at First Church, Laurel, and physical therapist Joey Cooley, a deacon at Highland Church.

"This really has been a group effort," explained McGraw. "People have responded to the Tomlison case with little or no prompting. When I went to the pharmacy to pick up his prescriptions, the pharmacist told me they were free." In addition, he noted, local Baptists provided meals for the household.

"This project has provided all of us an opportunity to give to missions," McGraw said. "We could just give our money to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering or the Cooperative Program — and we do. But hands-on missions provides a greater blessing. Besides, now we have two new friends."

But the opportunity to give is not over. While in Laurel, McGraw determined that Tomlison's right knee also needs to be replaced. The extra stress on the knee over the past 11 years, as well as arthritis, has caused deterioration in it too. The Tomlisons will return to Laurel Oct. 19, with surgery scheduled Oct. 20. The couple hopes to go home to Taiwan in January.

## Jones declines Georgia post after vote

ATLANTA (BP) — Stating no "person on God's earth can serve with a 66% vote," Southern Baptist Home Mission Board administrator Gary S. Jones "respectfully declined" a call to serve as executive director-treasurer of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

The 69-34 vote came after the GBC executive committee considered Jones' nomination in a grueling one and one-half hour discussion. In remarks after the vote, Jones told the committee the vote did not represent a mandate sufficient for him to accept the position.

During the questioning before the vote, several members of the committee pressed Jones on his positions on women in ministry, abortion, inclusiveness and other issues.

Asked first about his view of the Bible, Jones said he affirmed the Baptist Faith and Message statement's description of Scripture as "truth without any mixture of error," though he chose not to use "words which tend to be polemical."

But the issue of division was brought to the floor even before the vote. "Let me make no bones about it, we are a divided people," asserted Lester Cooper, search committee secretary and pastor of Valley Hill Church in Riverdale. Identifying

himself as the only "fundamentalist" representative on the committee, Cooper affirmed Jones' nomination as a means of moving toward "genuine inclusion which gives all Baptists equal voice," even though Jones "did not answer every question the way I would have wanted it answered." But other conservatives questioned the process that produced the search committee and the Jones' nomination.

The Georgia actions came just one week after the Tennessee Baptist

Convention's executive board elected James Porch, pastor of First Church in Tullahoma, Tenn., as TBC executive director on a 43-35 vote. Porch accepted the position and will succeed D.L. Lowrie, who resigned to become pastor of First Church in Lubbock, Texas.

The chairman of the GBC executive committee indicated the search committee would bring an interim report in November. James N. Griffith will continue as executive director-treasurer until a successor is named.

## Charges dismissed against SBC

NASHVILLE (BP) — Five lawsuits seeking \$10 million in damages filed against the Southern Baptist Convention, Tennessee Baptist Convention, and a Chattanooga area association will be dismissed, according to a court order sought by the plaintiff's attorneys.

The civil lawsuits were filed in connection with an earlier conviction for child molestation of a Chattanooga church's minister of music and youth. Donald McCary was convicted and sentenced in April to 72 years in prison.

## Puckett will celebrate 100th year

Puckett Church, Puckett, will celebrate its 100th anniversary Sept. 27. The church was organized Sept. 2, 1892.

Curtis James will be the guest speaker in the morning service. During the service the church will be recognized by the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission.

Dinner in the fellowship hall will follow the morning service. Barry Ward is pastor.



# Ukrainians respond to Baptist evangelism effort



Don McGregor, editor emeritus of the *Baptist Record*, has returned from an evangelistic crusade in Ukraine, a former republic of the Soviet Union. McGregor's responsibilities were to photograph the crusade's highlights and provide written material on the crusade upon its conclusion.

He was a part of a 49-person team from 12 states led by Jim Ponder, Southern Baptist evangelist.

*"...there were more than 12,500 professions of faith... during the eight days."*

list from Orlando, Fla. The trip was made under the auspices of the SBC-Russia Partnership, a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board volunteer program.

McGregor spoke in church services in Donetsk, a city of about one million people and the central city of the crusade, and in Shakhtior City. He said his most lasting impression was the sight of thousands of Ukrainians responding to the invitation (at left, top photo) at the close of services during a central crusade at the Ice Palace in Donetsk. He said he was impressed also by the hundreds of young people he saw in the churches as he moved about the area.

The Ponder team spent eight days in Donetsk. During the first four days, the entire group was divided into nine teams for as many churches in the area. On the



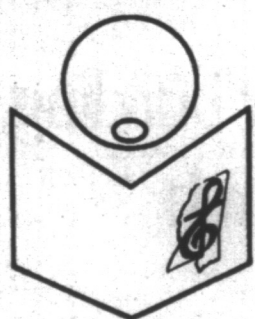
evening of the fifth day, there was an open-air service on Lenin Square in Donetsk, where McGregor (above, left photo) posed with a statue of Soviet Union founder Vladimir Lenin. The final three days were reserved for a central crusade in the city's Ice Palace.

Ponder indicated that there were more than 12,500 professions of faith in Jesus Christ during the eight days. He said that in the three nights of the central crusade there were more than 10,500 professions. Following the open-air service on Lenin Square, there were 789 professions of faith, he noted. During church services there were reported 807 professions, and there were 338 additional professions in

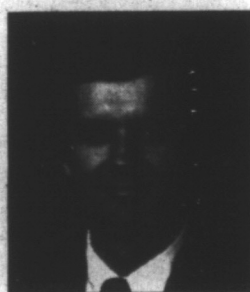
street witnessing situations.

The team also distributed 40,000 copies of the New Testament and scripture portions.

Evangelistic efforts in Donetsk have led to scores of new Christians (below, first photo) who await their turn to be baptized (below, second photo) by local ministers in a nearby lake, possibly the first photographs of a legal baptism service in the former Soviet Union. Whole families now openly attend baptism services (at left, bottom photo), while the gospel seems to have a special appeal to youngsters (above, right photo) like these who also came to the baptism service. (Photos by Igor Chayka and Don McGregor)



## 1992 ADULT CHOIR FESTIVAL October 23-24 Alta Woods Church, Jackson



Featuring  
**Mark Blankenship**  
Senior Manager, Youth, Adult, General  
Materials Development Section,  
Baptist Sunday School Board

Two anthems should be acquired prior to the festival: *Worthy of Worship*, Baptist Book Store #41730-72, and a new anthem by Blankenship available through the MBCB Church Music Department. (Price for second anthem included in registration fee.)

Choir adjudication information also available through the state Church Music office.

Registration cost is \$1 per person. To register or for more information, write Church Music Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205; phone 968-3800.



## 1992 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Woman's Missionary Union  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

October 9-10, 1992  
Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi

Friday, October 9, 1992

10:00 a.m.	Registration begins	MC Coliseum foyer
2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	Early Bird Conferences	MC classrooms
2:00 p.m.	"Don't Miss the Blessing: Minister's Wives"	MC classroom
3:00 p.m.	"Don't Miss the Blessing: Ministers' Wives"	Joann Leavell
6:15 p.m.	Evening Session begins	MC classroom
	Group Singing	Joann Leavell
	Greetings	MC Coliseum
	Theme Interpretation	Lisa Leavell/Josephine Bryan
	Theme Message	Pat Fordice
	Theme Message	Jeannette Clift George
	Concert	Lynne Cheney
		Joyce Landorf Heatherley
		Cynthia Clawson

Saturday, October 10, 1992

8:00 a.m.	Morning Session	MC Coliseum
	Group Singing	Lisa Leavell/Josephine Bryan
	Testimony	Karen Simons
	Missions Panel	Missionaries
	Theme Interpretation	Jeannette Clift George
	Special Music	Cynthia Clawson
10:15 a.m.	Theme Conferences I	
	"... In My World"	First Baptist Church, Clinton
	"... In My Life"	Marjorie Kelly
	"... In My Relationships"	Swor Auditorium
		Joyce Landorf Heatherley
		Provine Chapel
		Dottie Hudson
11:15 a.m.	Theme Conferences II	
12:00 noon	Lunch on the lawn	
1:15 p.m.	Theme Conferences III	
2:00 p.m.	Afternoon Session	MC Coliseum
	Group Singing	Lisa Leavell/Josephine Bryan
	Theme Message	Dellanna O'Brien
	Special Music	Cynthia Clawson
3:00 p.m.	Theme Closure	Jeannette Clift George/ Cynthia Clawson

For more information, contact WMU Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530 Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800

## Richardson will retire after 40 years as pastor

James Richardson, pastor of First, Madison, has announced his retirement from the pastorate effective

Oct. 1. He has served First Church 11 years.

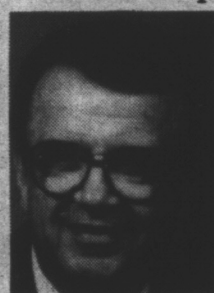
Before coming to Madison in 1981, he served as pastor of First, Leland, for 24 years, and 4 1/2 years at Calvary Church, West Point.

Richardson served two terms as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and has served on the Foreign Mission Board, the Home Mission Board, and the board of trustees at Mississippi College. He was bestowed an honorary doctoral degree from Mississippi College in 1975.

He was a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for six years and a member of the executive committee for two years.

He is married to the former 'Cissa Alexander. They have four children.

A reception will be held in the Richardsons' honor at First Church, Madison, Sept. 27, 3-5 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the church.



Richardson

## Staff changes

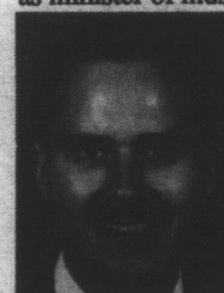
J. Roy McComb has resigned at First Church, Columbia, to accept First Church, Lenoir City, Tenn. McComb has pastored the Columbia congregation for 16 years, serves as a trustee for the New Orleans Seminary, and president of the Mississippi Pastors Conference. He has served in several positions with the state convention and the SBC.

Meadowview, Starkville, has called Michael Bowers as minister of youth and college. Previously, he served First Church, Gautier. A native of New Orleans, he is a graduate of Mississippi State University.

Edward Nix has joined the staff at First, Columbus, as minister of business administration and associate pastor. He served First, Clarksville, Tenn., prior to going to Columbus. A native of Jones County, he is a graduate of William Carey College and Southwestern Seminary.

Klint Allen Kallies recently joined the staff of First, Carthage, as minister of music. Previously, he

served Parkview, Arlington, Texas. A native of Birmingham, Ala., he is a graduate of the University of Montevallo, Montevallo, Ala., and Southwestern Seminary.



Kallies

Rocky Point, Carthage has called Emmon White as pastor. Previously, he was pastor of Bogue Chitto Church.



Clark

Bill Clark has accepted the position as minister of music at Wynn-dale Church, Terry. He recently served at Fannin Church, Madison County. Charles Gentry is pastor.

Jay Albritton has become minister of youth and activities at Wynn-dale Church, Terry. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and is enrolled in the NOBTS extension on the MC campus. Charles Gentry is pastor.



Albritton

Lilly Orchard Church, Helena, has called Dale Thrasher, director of the Homes of Grace-Haven for Women and Children, as pastor.

First Church, Sumrall has called Phillip Butler as minister of music and youth. Previously, he served Cold Springs Church, Covington Association. A native of Moselle, he is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi.

## Carey's fall 1992 enrollment jumps 21%

Record-setting undergraduate student enrollments in Hattiesburg and Gulfport have pushed fall 1992 head count totals past the 2,000 mark at William Carey College.

Preliminary head count figures released by the college administration totaled 2,016 students. Enrollment totals by campus are: Hattiesburg, 1,037; Gulfport, 555; and New Orleans, 390. Fall 1991 head count was 1,672 which indicates a gain of over 344 students,

or 21% in the current year.

At the Gulfport campus, undergraduate enrollment totals 432 for the current trimester, up 47% over the fall of 1991. Undergraduate enrollment at Carey on the Coast has increased 253% since 1989 when the total had dropped to 171 students following sharp cutbacks in programs and faculty.

"One of the reasons we are so cost competitive is our ability to keep a low overhead. Also, our

faculty and staff salaries are still lower than those paid at many institutions. We have recently improved our employee pay structure, and plan to continue doing that in the future, but the people who make Carey the 'College of Choice' are here because they love teaching and supporting students and view education as a calling rather than just a job," stated Jim Edwards, Carey College president.

### RTVC

From page 3

edged the Foreign Mission Board's recent unanimous vote to cooperate in building follow-up systems for the Russian programming. He expressed hope the partnership can be "translated into professions of faith, Bible study groups and churches at a faster rate than has been dreamed possible."

Johnson used a summary report from the commission's counseling services department to describe how the sometimes controversial VISN-ACTS decision is consistent with the agency's core mission.

"With almost 8,000 calls this year, 335 prayed to receive Christ, 376 rededicated their lives and 425 prayed for assurance of salvation," he reported. "Yet a telephone company study showed that our present system is handling only 13% of the attempted calls."

### CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 50 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads.

**FAST GROWING CHURCH** in the Chicago suburbs is actively seeking an aggressive self-starter with strong supervisory skills that can enhance and develop strategic plans for our growing Bible Study and Outreach Ministries. This full-time Minister of Education position offers an excellent salary package and benefits. All inquiries should be sent to Rick Ezell, Naperville Baptist Church, 29W771 79th Street, Naperville, IL 60564.

**FOR SALE:** 3,500 plastic stack chairs. Ideal for preschool and elementary departments. Assorted colors and sizes. Prices start at \$7.95. Also available: folding, adjustable tables and padded,

stack chairs. Call (601) 745-6532.

**FOR SALE:** 20 12' pews. Solid oak with pads, \$150 each. 1-323-4548.

**SOUTH JACKSON CHURCH** looking for Financial Secretary. Must have abilities in bookkeeping/accounting, typing, WordPerfect, and general secretarial work. Please send resume to Timothy Drane, 3795 Terry Road, Jackson, MS 39212.

**USED PEWS** with red padded seats, white colonial ends, 38-15', 19-14'. Excellent condition: pulpit, communion table, and two deacon benches. All have oak finish. Call Antioch Baptist Church, Columbus, 328-4765.

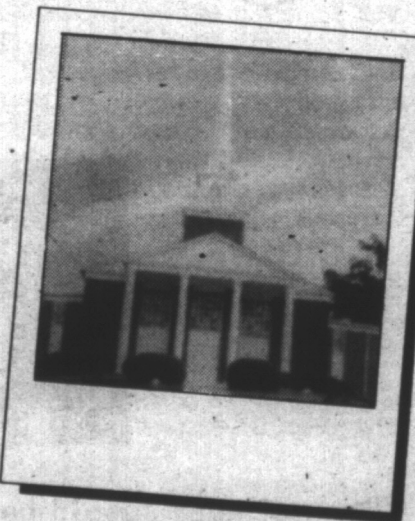
## It's not just another building. It's your church.

A church has different requirements than most other buildings an insurance company covers. It represents the shared commitment and sacrifice of many people... it's an invaluable emotional investment.

Church Mutual has specialized in insuring churches for nearly 100 years. Today we are the nation's largest insurer of churches, protecting over 5,800 Southern Baptist churches alone.

We know you can never forget the enduring importance of your church in the lives of your congregation. We take the critical step of getting to know your church firsthand to learn your unique needs and concerns.

To learn about the difference that our personalized, specialized expertise and competitive insurance coverage can mean to you and your congregation, write or call us at 1-800-542-3465.



**The Specialist**  
Church Mutual  
3000 Schuster Lane  
P.O. Box 357-S  
Merrill, WI 54452



# Revival Dates

**West Drew, Drew:** Oct. 4-9; Eugene Walden, Cleveland, evangelist; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Marvin Bibb, pastor.

**Spring Creek, Philadelphia:** Sept. 27-Oct. 2; Jimmy Coleman, Pell City, Ala., evangelist; Charles Wamble, Philadelphia, music; Sun.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Hugh Martin, pastor.

**First, New Albany:** Sept. 27-30; Don Wilton, New Orleans, evangelist; Ed Lacey, Mobile, Ala.; music; services noon and 7 p.m., Mon.-Wed.; Tom Sumrall, pastor.

**Arkadelphia, Bailey:** Sept. 27-Oct. 1; Barry Corbett, Kosciusko, evangelist; Jerry and Brenda Hooks, Meridian, music; Sun. morning, 11 a.m., nightly 7 p.m.; Grover Glenn, pastor.

**Meadowview, Starkville:** Sept. 27-Oct. 1; Bruce Gill, Hammond, La., evangelist; Bobby Ready, Ponchatoula, La., music; Sun., 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; Melvin Mordecai, pastor.

**Ridgecrest, Hattiesburg:** Sept. 27-30; Richard Miley, Richburg, evangelist; Melvin Stafford, Okahola, music; Sun., 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall; afternoon service, 1:30; no night service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m. nightly; J. D. Alexander, pastor.

**Robinhood, Brandon:** Sept. 28-

30; homecoming, Sept. 27; morning service, 11 a.m.; lunch following; 7 p.m. nightly; Ted Dukes, McComb, guest speaker/evangelist; Cecil Harper, Brandon, music; Don Nerren, pastor.

**First, Lake:** Sept. 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Tommy Anderson, evangelist; Jeff Parker, music; Ken McLemore, pastor.

**Holly Grove, Braxton:** Sept. 27-Oct. 2; Sun., 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Billy Joe Pearce, guest speaker; Brad Hartzog, music; Roger Lee, pastor.

**Fairhaven, Olive Branch:** Sept. 27-30; Sun., 6:30 p.m., Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jack Price, pastor.

**Springdale, Ripley:** Sept. 27-30; 7 p.m. nightly; Randy Bostick, Corinth, evangelist; Anthony Mitchell, Ashland, music; Maurice Pinkston, pastor.

**Lynn Ray Road, Petal:** Sept. 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; Johnny Breazeale, Purvis, evangelist; Charles Walker, Petal, music; Emmett Boone, pastor.

**Foxworth (Marion):** Sept. 27-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. worship; dinner in fellowship hall, 12:30; singing, 1:30 p.m.; evening service, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bobby Williamson, Brandon, evangelist; Charles Semler, Lakeland, Fla., music; Ladell Blanton, pastor.

Thursday, September 24, 1992

## Life Chain '92 scheduled in Jackson, Oct. 4

On Oct. 4, 3:30-4:30 p.m., thousands of Christians in the Jackson area will line the sidewalks of County Line and Ridgewood roads, holding pro-life signs and quietly interceding in prayer for unborn children, and for those who seek to end their lives.

As a form of public witness, participants in the Jackson Life Chain '92 will hold up signs reading, "Abortion kills children," "Jesus heals and saves," and "Adoption: the loving option."

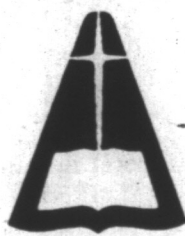
The public is invited to attend the event, sponsored by pro-life groups. For more information, write the Christian Action Commission, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

## MBMC offers special-interest events

The Mississippi Baptist Medical Center continues to offer classes and seminars to meet the need of special groups. Several such classes begin later this month or early October. They include: Sept. 26, Diabetes Management Skills; Oct. 1, Grandparenting; Oct. 5, Adult Swimming; Oct. 5, Breastfeeding; Oct. 6, Sibling Adjustment; and Oct. 7, Run/Walk Team. For fee and time schedules, call Laura Jones at 968-5135.

## Correction

The date of the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston is June 15-17, 1993. The date was incorrectly listed in the 1990 and 1991 SBC annuals, according to the Executive Committee.



### BAPTIST BOOK STORES

Become a vital part of a growing Christian Book Store organization! Seeking trained and experienced personnel for key leadership positions.

### BOOK STORE MANAGERS & MANAGER TRAINEES

Minimum requirements include:

- Bachelor's Degree (Business Degree desired)
- Active member of a Southern Baptist Church
- Willing to relocate anywhere in United States
- Retail experience desired.

If qualified please send resume with salary history and references to:

Book Store Search Committee  
Human Resources Department  
Baptist Sunday School Board  
127 Ninth Avenue, North  
Nashville, TN 37234  
(Equal Opportunity Employer)

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 2

## Homecomings

**Standing Pine, Carthage:** Sept. 27; singing, 10:30-11 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch, noon; no night service; Joe Abel, Carthage, speaker; Kevin Jones, pastor.

**Beulah, Lexington:** Sept. 27; 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch, noon; afternoon singing, 1:30; W.M. Daves, guest speaker; Sunrise, Philadelphia, music; Jim Lee, pastor.

**Friendship, Aberdeen:** Sept. 27; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., worship, 11; covered dish lunch, noon; Daniel Jones, Fairhope, Ala., speaker; Todd Bowen, pastor.

**Lake Forest, Walls:** Sept. 27; worship, 10:30 a.m., covered dish, 11:30; no night service; Larry Wayne Sykes, pastor.

**Belden (Lee):** Sept. 27; 10:30 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall, 11:30; Don Baggett, pastor.

**Hope, Philadelphia:** Sept. 27; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing, 1:30; no night service; Ivor Clark, Wesson, speaker; "Eyewitness,"

Philadelphia, music; Jimmy Young, Jr., pastor.

**Rocky Point (Leake):** Sept. 27; 10:45 a.m.; lunch, noon; "Heaven-bound," Philadelphia, afternoon concert; Emmon White, pastor.

**Turnpike (Pontotoc):** Sept. 27; 10 a.m.; lunch, noon; E.E. Tutor, speaker; Bob Bailey, music; "1st Love Revival," afternoon concert; Sammy Montgomery, pastor.

**Kilmichael (Montgomery):** Sept. 27; 101st anniversary; regular morning services; covered dish dinner in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing; no night services; Joe P. Crout, pastor.

**Tyro, Senatobia:** Sept. 27; beginning 11 a.m.; noon meal in community center; afternoon singing; no night services; W.C. Haley, Como, guest speaker; Jimmy McCarver, Jimmy Taylor on program; Gary Newton, pastor.

**Antioch, Union:** Sept. 27; Sunday School, 9:45; worship, 11; dinner on grounds, noon; afternoon service, 1:30; Albert McMullen, guest speaker; James Young, pastor.

## Honduras project pays off in missions offering, desire

Paul David Aultman, First Church, Ocean Springs, and David A. Langston of Crossgates Church, Brandon, recently spoke to the 1992 Honduras Baptist Men's Congress. More than 230 men and boys enrolled at the Baptist Encampment at Lake Yojoa, Honduras.

Mississippi missionary Stanley Stamps reports the growing awareness of missions has led to an

increased desire to be involved in Honduras Convention's mission program. An offering of 400 Lempiras (\$80) was received to help support a national missionary. This is the first offering ever for the Honduran men to make to this cause.

Stamps described the Congress as "the best spiritual event we have had here in a long time."

## Just for the Record

**Pinelake, Brandon,** began an eight-week precept Bible study, Sept. 22. The study on 2 Peter, "How to be kept from falling," will continue each Tuesday, with sessions from 9-11 a.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m. Participants may choose either a morning or night session. For information, call 992-2630.

Calvary, Durant, will present

**The Thorntons of Hernando,** Sept. 26, 7 p.m., along with Jerry & Spin.

**West Ellisville Church, Ellisville,** will host evangelist Ondie Brum in its morning services Sept. 27. The resident of Baytown, Texas, is a converted drug addict who delivers a powerful testimony. Dwight Smith is pastor.

## PARKS

From page 3

last February, "there was some need for haste," explained John Hewett of Asheville, N.C., past Fellowship moderator.

Earlier that month, Parks had warned trustees that the Southern Baptist controversy had infiltrated the mission enterprise and thrown the FMB into crisis. He asked trustees to affirm his leadership or replace him. "There was a strong feeling in February that his departure from the Foreign Mission Board was imminent," said Hewett.

In his report to the council, Cecil Sherman, coordinator of the Fellowship, said 680 churches have contributed funds to the Fellowship in 1992, up from 391 last year. That includes an unspecified number of churches that contribute directly from their budget and churches that send designated gifts from individual church members.

As the number of contributing churches has grown, so has the Fellowship's budget, Sherman said. In the first eight months of 1992, the organization has received as much money as in all of 1991 — about \$4.5 million — and is on target to reach its projection of \$6.4 million to \$6.6 million.

## FINAL NOTICE

If you have

**J. Garland McKee**

engaged at any time between the dates of  
October 1, 1992 and December 31, 1995

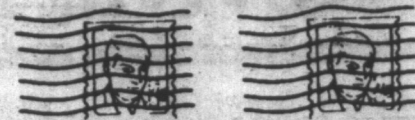
Please contact his office immediately!

Evangelism Department  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
Post Office Box 530  
Jackson, Miss. 39205-0530  
Telephone: (601) 968-3800





# Letters to the editor



## Negative impact

Editor:

The "pro-lottery" people tell us the lottery will have a great economic impact on the state of Mississippi. They are right. The lottery will also have a great economic impact on our churches.

Now let me explain. The lottery will have a great economic impact on our state — a NEGATIVE one! As people across our state spend their money on the lottery each week, they will be taking away money from family grocery, clothing, and utility budgets. This will mean the poor (lottery's biggest supporters) will need financial help to buy food, clothes, and pay other bills. From where will this money come? The taxpayers of Mississippi, through our welfare programs, will bear the load of our poor becoming yet poorer. Also, the churches of our state will be hit with a tide of requests for food and financial assistance to pay rent, utilities, and other bills. Furthermore, the merchants of our state will feel the loss of income from decreased sales due to less buying power. Can Mississippi afford this kind of economic impact?

Rodney Anderson  
Hickory Church  
Hickory

## Don't kill RFRA

Editor:

Baptists beware! The Religious Freedom Restoration Act (H.F. 2797 and S. 2969) is being held hostage by a vicious smear-campaign aimed at gaining special favors for the Catholic church.

Claiming that the RFRA will permit pro-abortion lawsuits by using religious freedom as an excuse for abortion, the National Right to Life and some other pro-life groups have attacked the bill, with the behind-the-scenes support of the United States Catholic Conference, the political arm of the nation's Roman Catholic bishops.

Let's clear the air with the facts. Fact: Senator Ted Kennedy was asked to co-sponsor the RFRA by the very conservative, pro-life Republican Senator Orrin Hatch, because Hatch wanted broad support for the bill, not because it was a liberal plot from Kennedy.

Fact: The following pro-life groups support the RFRA: the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, the National Association of Evangelicals, Traditional Values Coalition, and Beverly LaHaye's Concerned Women for America, to name a few.

Fact: The Congressional Research Service has issued a legal analysis of the RFRA, saying it is unlikely any abortion cases could be won by using the RFRA.

Fact: The Catholic bishops have proposed a different bill which would insert language not only explicitly saying that religious freedom could not be a claim for abortion, but also saying that there should not be a challenge to church parochial or a church's tax exempt status. This would help Catholic efforts to get government funding for their private schools.

Fact: This revised bill proposed by the Catholic bishops has far fewer sponsors than the RFRA, and has no chance of getting passed. However, their effort may be successful in keeping any religious freedom bill from being passed at all. Thus they are holding religious freedom hostage in a fruitless attempt to get special favors for themselves!

Please don't let the Catholic bishops kill the RFRA!

Bob Rogers  
First Church  
Poplarville

## Land's statement

Editor:

Here is the unabridged statement Richard Land issued to Associated Baptist Press (ABP) pursuant to the Christian Life Commission's request for a clarification of the Aug. 28 ABP article, "Baptist backing of Bush...."

"It's both unfair and inaccurate to say that there is 'close identification' between the Christian Life Commission or Richard Land and 'the campaign to re-elect President George Bush.' The Christian Life Commission has scrupulously avoided talking about campaigns or giving the appearance of endorsement of candidates. We have dealt with, and will continue to deal with, issues.

"It would come as a shock to some in the Bush campaign that we are in such 'close identification' to them in light of the criticism the Christian Life Commission has expressed of the Bush Administration's stand on some issues, particularly homosexuality. As I said at the National Affairs Briefing, we call on Southern Baptists and other Christians to vote their values, their convictions, and their beliefs rather than other considerations such as their geographical origin, their denominational affiliation, and their pocketbook.

"We do, however, exercise our Convention-mandated responsibility to speak to the issues and various candidates' responses to those issues. To say at this point we're far more pleased with President Bush's opposition on the question of special civil rights status for homosexuals than we are Governor Clinton's position is not partisan politics but prophetic proclamation. We will continue to do our best to talk about the importance of issues and to inform Southern Baptists about where candidates for

national office stand on those issues.

"To paraphrase a statement I have made publicly on several occasions, we work for God and the Southern Baptist Convention, not any candidate or political party."

Tom Strode  
Christian Life Commission  
Washington, D.C.

## In praise of servant

Editor:

Jean Hillman Allgood has seen much more of the world than Gulfport, Miss. She has been a very active member of First Church, Gulfport, for 38 years. She continues to serve in music and Woman's Missionary Union when she "touches base" from her participation in missions around the world.

After the death of her husband, mother, and father, she felt that she needed a "new direction." She had taught school for several years and took early retirement. She asked God to redirect her energies and talents. At Glorieta in 1983, she heard Mrs. Nell Bobo share about mission volunteer opportunities. Three months later, she was in Caracas, Venezuela, serving as secretary of the Venezuelan Baptist Mission. She served there for 8 1/2 months.

While in Venezuela, Jean saw that she could make a contribution to missions. She has since served in Bolivia, Switzerland (eight months), Canada (five months), China (2 times!), Venezuela (2 times!), American Samoa (five months), St. Kitts Island, New Zealand, Czechoslovakia (where she taught and worked with a young pastor whom she met while he was studying at Ruschlikon Seminary in Switzerland), and Thailand (2 times!) — PLUS Tacoma, Washington, for several months, and Endicott, New York, at Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church for several months. She has been back to Endicott on two other work trips. She has done a variety of work — office secretary, bookkeeping, public relations secretary, taught English as a second language (ESL), including teaching Burmese refugees, worked in music — both vocal and instrumental, and in Canada, she worked during Expo '86.

Perhaps God is calling you into short term mission service. If so, you are in for many wonderful blessings as you seek to help others know about God. Why not call 1-800-999-3113 at the Baptist Foreign Mission Board!

Maxine Stewart  
Thailand

## Contacts in Europe

Editor:

The European Baptist Conven-

tion has started five new churches in 1992. Two churches were started in September, one in Barcelona, Spain and the other in Bremen, Germany.

There are thousands of English speaking people living in these two cities as well as in the locations of the 56 other EBC churches in 15 countries throughout Europe.

If you have friends, relatives, church members, or others who are living in, or perhaps moving to these areas, you can contact the European Baptist Convention by letter or fax. The address and fax number are Sonnenberger Strasse 60; 6200 Wiesbaden, Germany; fax number: 011 49611 590 883.

John W. Merritt  
General secretary  
European Baptist Convention

## Levi's vs. Boy Scouts

Editor:

I wrote the president of Levi Strauss & Co. in regard to their withdrawal of monetary support to the Boy Scouts of America.

The message of my letter stated I could not perceive any constructive gain by Levi Strauss' attempt to force the Boy Scouts of America to allow known homosexuals into their ranks as scouting personnel.

Their response: "The Boy Scouts of America has confirmed that their membership criteria is

in conflict with our grant-making policies of nondiscrimination on the basis of religious belief and sexual orientation. Accordingly, Levi Strauss & Co. and the Foundation can no longer fund the Boy Scouts of America."

I feel very deeply that all Christians should take a stand on this moral issue. I strongly urge and expect Southern Baptists to be the leaders in saying to America and the world that the majority in this country still places moral and religious values over the dollar. This could best be shown by purchasing other products.

Bob Miller  
Hernando

## Seeking travel trailer

Editor:

We are retired Southern Baptist pastor and wife, desiring to do pioneer mission work, and urgently need a travel trailer, self-contained with stove, heater, refrigerator, shower, etc.

If you have one to contribute to missions, contact George S. Kelly, 706 Bayberry Drive, Carlisle, OH 45344-1250, phone (513) 845-3458.

I was former pastor of First Church, Lyman, in Gulf Coast Association.

George S. Kelly  
First Baptist Church  
Huber Heights, Ohio

## JANUARY BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW CLINICS

Sept. 30, Oct. 1, Oct. 2

featuring

Judy Wooldridge  
BSSB — Nashville  
(Youth worker leader)

James E. Harvey  
BSSB — Nashville  
(Adult worker leader)

Sept. 30th — Blue Mountain College  
Oct. 1st — Mississippi College  
Oct. 2nd — William Carey College

Each clinic is scheduled from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Lunch will be served complimentary of the colleges.  
Study course credit will be given to individuals who attend entire seminar.

For more information, call Larry Salter, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Sunday School Department, (601) 968-3800.



## Life and Work

### Giving you testimony



By Milton Burd  
Acts 26:4-9, 12-16, 19-20

The lesson for this week completes the four-part study on developing our witnessing skills. Each lesson has been important, from an initial experience with Christ as Savior, to living a Christian lifestyle, to depending on the Holy Spirit.

These skills lead to the focus of this week's lesson on giving our personal testimony. This is a skill that can be developed by every Christian and becomes easier and more comfortable with experience. Acts 26 gives a good example of a personal testimony. Paul was given an opportunity to speak before Herod Agrippa, Festus, and other high-ranking officials, and he used it to share his personal experience with Christ. Let's look at our scriptures.

Paul's life before he became a Christian (vv. 4-5, 9). A good way to begin a personal testimony is to tell about your life before salvation. Paul began with a description of his life as a devout Jew. Many could testify as to Paul's development and schooling in the Jewish tradition. He was educated in Jerusalem under the famous Rabbi, Gamaliel. He lived as a Pharisee, a strict keeper of the law. None was more faithful and none possessed more zeal for his faith.

He wanted to do all he could to suppress and persecute Christians. They posed a threat (or nuisance) to his religion. Paul was a blasphemer because he denied the deity of Christ. He was a persecutor who used his power to persecute the Christian church. He even consented to the murder of Stephen, the first Christian martyr. Paul (or Saul) in all of his brilliance and education was blinded from the truth. This was his life before he met Christ.

Paul's realization that he was lost (vv. 12-16). The second part of your testimony could include the story of how you realized your need to be saved and how it happened. Paul explained his famous Damascus road experience. It was certainly a very dramatic one. He was on his way to persecute Christians when he met Christ in a blinding light. Jesus Christ identified himself to Paul and said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."

Paul did not receive what he deserved, but instead received the gift of God's grace. He received salvation. Jesus Christ entered into his life. Paul not only received salvation, but he received a commission from Jesus. Verse 16 states that Jesus appointed Paul to be a servant and a witness of what he had seen and what would be shown to him.

This was Paul's commission as an apostle. This is what happens to all of us who experience salvation. It is God's great gift to the world. Our experience of salvation may not be as dramatic as Paul's, but nevertheless the results are the same. We experienced the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Paul's commitment of his life to Christ (v. 19). The third part of your testimony could include a statement of your commitment to Christ. Paul described his response to Christ when he said, "I was not disobedient." Paul made a commitment that day to follow Christ. He left behind the authority, the education, and his life as a strict Pharisee. He became a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ. Paul also became an example to many as a result of his testimony and life with Christ.

Paul's life after becoming a Christian (v. 20). You can conclude your testimony by describing the difference Christ has made in your life. Repentance and salvation is reflected in a changed life. Paul told his listeners that his life was drastically changed. Paul became a bold witness to all the world. He preached repentance to the Jews and the Gentiles. What a testimony Paul had! What a testimony we have to share with others. Many are waiting to hear our testimonies with Christ.

Burd is minister of education, First Church, Cleveland.

## Uniform

### Following spiritual leads



By Margaret H. Rogers  
Judges 4-5

After the death of Joshua, the Hebrew nation had no strong central government. The nation was a confederacy composed of 12 independent tribes, with no unifying force except their God. This form of government in days of the judges was spoken of as a "theocracy," with God as divine ruler. The people, however, did not take God seriously and were continually falling away into idolatry. The period of the Judges lasted about 300 years, covering the years following the conquest of Canaan until the time of the monarchy, literally between the death of Joshua and the ministry of Samuel.

During this period, the people were ruled by individual leaders, called judges or saviors. They were primarily military leaders, expelling enemies from the land. In this time of Israel's history there was a tragic cycle that was repeated numerous times. According to tradition, Samuel wrote the book sometime after 1000 B.C., but actual authorship is uncertain.

This period is known as the "dark ages" in Hebrew history. It is characterized by apostasy, decline, disorder, and demoralization. It was a time of decline in all areas of life: economic, political, social, moral, and religious. It was a time of compromise and acceptance by many of God's people of the ideals and standards of their pagan neighbors.

The structure of the book is as follows: causes, conditions, and consequences with sin, servitude, supplication, salvation, and silence (rest from enemies).

A woman judge — Israel's leader (Judges 4:4-5). In ancient civilizations, the role of men was emphasized, and women in some cultures were considered only as property. They could not inherit their husband's property or be given any authority. However, in Israel, women were not so suppressed as in other lands.

Deborah was very special, for as a judge, she did more than settle disputes. She could exercise all the functions of a governor. She held executive and legislative authority, as well as military authority. She was one of God's representatives during this bleak period of Hebrew history.

The judge assigns a mission (vv. 5-10). One can sense Deborah's authority as she sends for Barak. As he arrives, Deborah speaks in her role of prophetess and tells him, "The Lord, the God of Israel commands you."

This area of Palestine had been oppressed for 20 years by a powerful Canaanite king. This king had great military strength and had 900 chariots of iron. God promised through Deborah to give Barak and a mere 10,000 Israelites a victory over the larger, much better equipped Canaanite force. Barak was willing to go, only if Deborah would accompany him. It is clear that Deborah had won the respect of her people, and she proved to be a leader on whom men like Barak could depend.

Faith wins the victory (vv. 14-16). The secret of Deborah's life was, of course, her faith in God. She was exceptional, wise, and fair; yet there was more to her leadership than her talents. God spoke to her and God spoke through her as this victory verifies. To Barak, Deborah represented the presence of God.

Deborah did go with Barak, and he led the military forces to victory, but only as he was directed and encouraged by Deborah. The story continues with another woman being the one who had the courage to kill Sisera, the leader of the Canaanite forces.

As women played major roles in this story during the period of the judges, so women through the years have had significant roles in helping to bring in the kingdom of God. All those who serve need encouragement and often direction in their endeavor for God. A powerful military force was defeated by a far less efficient army plus God.

The apostle Paul reminds Christians in 1 John 4:4 to ever be aware that "the one who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." Deborah was endowed with qualities of brain and heart. She was one whose communion with God was so fervent and sincere that her place is assured among those who wholly followed the Lord.

Rogers is a member of Salem Church, Collins.

## Bible Book

### Restoration through faith



By R. David Raddin  
Micah 6:1-4, 6-8; 7:5-7, 18-20

"And what does God require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (6:8). God is just and merciful. He calls us to be restored through faith in him when we fail. Sin keeps us from the life God wants for us. He offers to restore us not only from sin but to full and abundant life.

God's contention (6:1-4). The Lord calls on Judah to state before all creation its reasons for not living as he desires. "My people, what have I done to you?" (v. 3). Judah is given the opportunity to come before the Lord with whatever complaints it has.

God is a just judge. Through Micah, he brings charges against his people. He gives them the opportunity to respond. The Lord recounts his working through history for their redemption. The people have sinned, and God comes to judge them.

God demands faithfulness from those who have personal relationship with Him. The gospel affects how we who know the Lord live. God judged then and judges today. What is the verdict in your life?

God's requirements of his people (6:6-8). Knowing their sin and its consequences, the people searched for ways to be made right before God. Micah spoke to the people about the offerings and sacrifices they were making. He tells them that these outward actions mean nothing without inward commitment.

The prophet shares with the people what God requires for them to be forgiven and restored. The first requirement is that they "do justly." The call is to do as the Lord would do. Jesus gives us the key in his words, "Love the Lord the God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.... Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:37-38).

The second requirement is to "love mercy." When life is given to doing as the Lord would do, loving mercy is a natural result. "Mercy" carries the meaning of the steadfast love of God. Forgiveness and concern for others are part of mercy. God's mercy is undeserved by us, any of us. So we must be merciful to those in our world. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy" (Matt. 5:7).

The third requirement is to "walk humbly with your God." What a humbling experience to realize that we walk day to day not only in the presence of God, but also with God. Humility is coming before God, submissive to him in every way.

Each of us must evaluate our own lives. Do we "act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God"? The question is not only answered in our minds, but in the presence of the almighty God.

Encouragement to trust in God only (7:5-7). "But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me" (v. 7). Our scripture reminds us that our ultimate trust cannot be placed in people. The inscription, "In God We Trust," on our money should serve as a constant reminder to place our trust in the Lord.

The word "wait" in verse seven has the meaning "waiting expectantly." Our trust in the Lord is more than a confidence that he will not betray us. Our trust in him is that he will always work for our good.

Restoration by the merciful God (7:18-20). The people were under the judgment of God. His wrath was upon them. The good news of the gospel is that God offers to sinners a way to be forgiven and restored to him. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

What beautiful words Micah writes, "Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy" (v. 18).

Raddin is pastor, First Church, Yazoo City.



# Leaders of growing churches reveal their "secrets" — none

By Sarah Zimmerman

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — The secret to church growth is there is no secret to church growth.

Though a myriad of models were shared during the Nationwide Church Growth Conference in Fort Worth, none of the speakers claimed to have a magic formula for growing churches.

Instead, speaker after speaker offered warnings like, "This worked in my city, but it may not work in your situation." John Bisagno, pastor of First Church of Houston, told participants: "Don't swallow all of this. Pray over it and filter it through your personality."

The "great mistake" Southern Baptists make in trying to grow churches is "we think it's a head matter rather than a heart matter," said Charles Redmond, pastor of First Church of Pasadena, Texas.

The heart of church growth, he said, is vision.

"The pastor himself must have a vision to grow ... and the vision must come from God," Redmond said. "Visions from anyone other than God won't work when the going gets tough."

Visions come during "daily appointment times with God," Redmond said. Without a personal devotion, pastors "have no hope of experiencing the abundant life or leading the church to do something that can't be done in the flesh."

There will never be growth outwardly until there is growth inwardly," Redmond said.

Growth means change, however, and Redmond noted change can lead to conflict. He said pastors and church leaders must respond spiritually to people's reaction to change.

"Lead the positive people, and as best you can, love the negative people," Redmond said.

Other speakers stressed the bedrock church growth principle of prospect cultivation.

A door-to-door "people search" was the tool Jack Still implemented when he became pastor of Elkton Road Church in Athens, Ala. Forty-six teams surveyed 500 households, resulting in 400 church prospects.

After regular contacts, 250 of the prospects enrolled in Sunday School. In two years, the church had 152 new members, 90 of them by baptism.

Gerald Otahal, bivocational pastor of Princeton Southern Baptist Church in Princeton, Ind., said a door-to-door survey would be unproductive in Princeton because residents are weary of solicitations from Jehovah's Witnesses.

Instead, Otahal said his church uses telemarketing. Church volunteers call residents listed in the phone book in the town of 10,000,

looking for people who are not involved in any church.

People who express an interest are sent printed material about the church. Additional contacts include a visit from a Sunday School worker and a deacon or the pastor.

"Since we started telemarketing, we've never lacked for visitors," Otahal said. The church's Sunday School enrollment has grown from 25 in 1989 to 105 currently.

Worship services which are times of celebration, thanksgiving, repentance, and commitment will draw non-Christians to Christ, said Mark Turman, pastor of Crossroads Church near Marshall, Texas.

"Worship is our expression of gratitude to God," Turman said. "It is time to express our needs to each other and to God, to gain encouragement and get correction and instruction and energy and power for living."

Creating an atmosphere for worship includes being concerned about mechanical things such as room temperature, lighting, sound system, and appearance of the sanctuary, Turman said. But he warned pastors to avoid getting so caught up in developing a worship experience they lose their personal sense of worship.

Zimmerman writes for HMB.

## Devotional...

### Of Courage and Hope

By C.Z. Holland

Nature has taught us that when the full-blown flower has lost its last petal, it withers and dies. But when the loveliest flower in the garden wilts before it has added its last petal or given its sweet nectar, the whole garden loses its charm and beauty. In our little rose garden I have lost some of the loveliest flowers.

Death, the unwanted and unwelcome visitor, has visited our home and would not leave. In desperation we called for help. Medical science heard our cry and responded. It came with its greatest skills and techniques and joined our battle, but death prevailed.

The battle was long but was fought with hope and courage. It was fought in the home, in the church, and in the full flow of life. The bed became the final battle field in the home and in the hospital. But, the bed finally became an altar where sweet angels of mercy came daily to make their sacrifices, always leaving a token of love. With a mystical eye one could see Jesus reincarnated. It was really his hands that prepared the food and his feet that brought the knock at the door.

The three brothers and sister, together with their spouses, formed a brigade and joined in the battle with Becky. In the battle they discovered a quality of life and demonstrated their daily love and devotion.

It takes more than human understanding to fathom the mysteries of life. Do we have the paradox of the cross in life's drama? Was it not through suffering that Jesus became the Christ?

Becky, we salute you. You taught us not only how to live but how to die. You were loved by all because you were a champion lover. May the mantle of your beautiful and useful life fall upon all of us who follow you. You are not only our inspiration but our reward to our life's investment.

Roger, we have watched with joy and great delight your journey together as you sang life's song. You and Becky have given us Arledge and Anna, who will enable us always to have you. So we say with humble gratitude, "Blessed be God that gives us unspeakable gifts."

Holland lives in Clinton.

## Slanted news coverage in Turkey leads to harassment of Christians

By Barbara Baker

ISTANBUL, Turkey — After a two-month rash of media "expose" against Christians and alleged Christian missionary activities within Turkey, an international Protestant church in the capital of Ankara was targeted for an early-morning firebombing on August 26.

In contrast to the banner-story headlines against Turks who have opted to become Christians, the firebombing has not yet been mentioned in any Turkish publication.

The incident, which caused an estimated \$1,000 in damages to furnishings of the International Protestant Church of Ankara, was acknowledged in a few brief lines over the semi-official Anatolian News Agency, which identified the attack as an attempt to burn up the meeting place of an "American church" in Ankara's Dikmen district.

Within a few days of the fire attack, the Ankara church bowed to what they called "the understandable fears" of the landlord and neighbors that extremists might actually bomb the church, and agreed to search for new facilities.

Giving credence to the ongoing allegations, the Turkish Department of Religious Affairs announced on August 29 that a counter-propaganda campaign was being launched to deflect the alarming rise of missionary efforts to convert Turkish youth to Christianity through job promises.

Stating that the missionary activities were being monitored, the department promised "preventative

measures against them will be begun in the coming days."

Baker is a writer for News Network International.

(Editor's note: Ken and Martha Cooper, SBC missionaries to Ankara, Turkey, and pastor of the Ankara Baptist Church International, formerly pastored in Corinth, Mississippi. They are currently seeking a meeting place for their congregation. They are expecting rough days ahead for Christians in Turkey, but thus far their church has not been targeted.)

## Between science, Christianity lies the hot topic of evolution

By Keith Swartz

Science and Christianity: When it comes to the two, evolution is probably one of the most heated topics between them. Perhaps it is because a great deal of nonsense has been talked, taught, and written about "evolution."

One of the greatest atheists of the past was a man by the name of Robert G. Ingersoll. Ingersoll, in spite of his atheism, had for a friend the famous preacher of his day, Henry Ward Beecher. In Beecher's study was an elaborate celestial globe which had been sent to him compliments of a local manufacturer.

On the surface of this globe were raised figures of the constellations and stars in delicate workmanship. Ingersoll, seeing it one day on a visit to Beecher's, was so impressed by it that he turned it around and around in child-like admiration.

"That is just what I want," he said, "Whoever made it?"

"Who made it? Who made it, did you say, Ingersoll?" asked Beecher of his friend. "Why nobody, of course. It just happened!"

We all know better than that. We know that things just don't

happen but they have a cause; there must be a first cause of all things.

It is very important that we view the first chapter of Genesis in the light that God himself provides through and by the entire testimony of the written Word of God, the Bible. Just as God commanded Moses to remove his shoes because he stood on holy ground, we, likewise, must put aside our concepts of what could and could not have happened.

We must do that and stand in God's presence ready to hear; ready to believe what he has chosen to tell us about creation in unconditional submission — submission to the authority of the Word of God, the Bible.

The mood of our day, even among Christians, rejects that idea. All truth is God's truth but that which contradicts, or denies the Bible, is not truth but a lie. An example is the Bible's teaching concerning the age of the world compared to that of "so-called" modern day science. The Bible tells us that age is somewhere between 6,000-7,000 years; not trillions, billions, or millions.

I read once of a family cat that died and was buried by the children. A few years later, the young people wondered what was left of their cat, so they dug it up. They were amazed that some of the bones appeared to be petrified. In order to find out, they sent it to a nearby university lab without telling them of the nature of their "discovery."

As a result of the lab testing, they were informed that the bones were those of a cat that had lived several million years ago. In fact, it was an evolutionary ancestor of our "present day" modern cats!

God, by the apostle Paul, warns us that the time will come, and has come, when men will not endure sound doctrine or truth. Wanting to have their ears tickled, wanting to be entertained — have their very own sinful desires of disbelief fed — they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires. They will turn away their ears from the truth and will believe myths, fables, lies for and as truth (2 Tim. 4:3,4).

Evolution ain't the solution! Swartz is pastor, Friendship Church, Jones Association.

Baptist Record

005-DTM  
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SO 00  
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401  
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Se,

1992

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205